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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/980,973	02/21/2002	Hannu Honkala	4925-164PUS	3616

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09/08/2004

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EXAMINER

CUMMING, WILLIAM D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2683

DATE MAILED: 09/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/980,973

Applicant(s)

HONKALA, ET AL

Examiner

WILLIAM D CUMMING

Art Unit

2683

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 February 2002 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

***Priority***

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

***Information Disclosure Statement***

2. The references cited in the Search Report filed October 29, 2001 have been considered, but will not be listed on any patent resulting from this application because they were not provided on a separate list in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(1). In order to have the references printed on such resulting patent, a separate listing, preferably on a PTO-1449 form, must be filed within the set period for reply to this Office action.

***Drawings***

3. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, each of the claimed steps in the claimed method of claims 1-6 and 10-14; each of the claimed means of the internal network controller as stated by claim 7; the internal cellular network controller comprising a base transceiver station as stated by claim 8 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

4. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

## **5. INFORMATION ON HOW TO EFFECT DRAWING CHANGES**

### **Replacement Drawing Sheets**

Drawing changes must be made by presenting replacement figures which incorporate the desired changes and which comply with 37 CFR 1.84. An explanation of the changes made must be presented either in the drawing amendments, or remarks, section of the amendment. Any replacement drawing sheet must be identified in the top margin as "Replacement Sheet" (37 CFR 1.121(d)) and include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even though only one figure may be amended. The figure or figure number of the amended drawing(s) must not be labeled as "amended." If the changes to the drawing figure(s) are not accepted by the examiner, applicant will be notified of any required corrective action in the next Office action. No further drawing submission will be required, unless applicant is notified.

Identifying indicia, if provided, should include the title of the invention, inventor's name, and application number, or docket number (if any) if an application number has not been assigned to the application. If this information is provided, it must be placed on the front of each sheet and centered within the top margin.

### **Annotated Drawing Sheets**

A marked-up copy of any amended drawing figure, including annotations indicating the changes made, may be submitted or required by the examiner. The annotated drawing sheets must be clearly labeled as "Annotated Marked-up Drawings" and accompany the replacement sheets.

### **Timing of Corrections**

Applicants are required to submit acceptable corrected drawings within the time period set in the Office action. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Failure to take corrective action within the set period will result in **ABANDONMENT** of the application.

***Specification***

6. This application does not contain an abstract of the disclosure as required by 37 CFR 1.72(b). An abstract on a separate sheet is required.

7. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicants' cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

8. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

9. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

10. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The specification inadequately describe each of the claimed steps in the claimed method of claims 1-6 and 10-14 and each of the claimed means of the internal network controller as stated by claim 7 and the internal cellular network controller comprising a base transceiver station as stated by claim 8. These steps and means inside the internal network are not shown, nor the nexus between each of the steps and means of the respected claims is inadequately describe. The "*written description*" of the invention required by first paragraph of 35 USC §112 is separate and distinct from that paragraph's requirement of enabling disclosure, since description must do more than merely provide explanation of how to "*make and use*" the invention. Applicants must also convey, with reasonable clarity to those skilled in the art, that applicants, as of the filing date sought, was in possession of the invention, with the invention being, for purpose of "*written description*" inquiry, whatever is presently claimed. Drawings alone may, under proper circumstances, provide "*written description*" of the invention required by 35 USC §112, and whether the drawings are from design application or utility application is not determinative. In order to satisfy "*written description*" requirement of 35 USC §112, the proper test is whether

drawings conveys, with reasonable clarity to those of ordinary skill in the art, the claim subject matter.

11. Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

The specification fails to provide an enabling disclosure for the claimed means for detecting the movement of the mobile station in the internal network controller; the means for selectively issuing a hand-off advance request; the means for setting up a communication channel. The specification also fails to show how each of said means are connected to each other in the internal cellular network. Also the internal cellular network controller comprising a base transceiver station as stated by claim 8, the specification does not show a base station transceiver station in the internal cellular network controller and how it would be done. These internal components of the internal cellular network controller is known only to the inventors.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

13. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

14. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicants are advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).



15. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Kim, et al** in view of **Willars**.

Regarding claim 1, **Kim** discloses a method of handing off a mobile station (figure 1, #10) from an internal cellular communications network to an external cellular communications network having a network controller, the method comprising detecting the movement of said mobile station into said border cell (see col. 3, lines 8 - 22). Generating an advance hand-off request in accordance with a prediction algorithm which uses a set of predetermined parameters associates with said mobile station (#10) and determines when a hand off is likely to be required (see col. 3, lines 13—31) and response to said advance hand-off request setting up a communications channel in the external cellular communications network for use by said mobile station when an actual hand-off request is made (see col. 2, lines 31 —37), wherein said external network is a mobile communications network and said internal network is a packet switched network and said internal cellular network transmits and receives a plurality of signals using the same communication standard for radio frequency communication as said external cellular network (see col. 5, lines 42 — 53). However, **Kim** fails to disclose allocating at least one cell of the internal cellular network as a border cell. detecting the movement of said mobile station into said border cell. **Willars** teaches allocating at least one cell of the internal cellular network as a border cell and detecting the movement of said mobile station (#figure 1, #30) into border cell (see col.4, line 57 to col. 5, line 15). Therefore, it

would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skills in the art at the time of claimed invention was made to provide the above teaching of **Willars** to **Kim's** method, in order to improve voice and data communication in the cellular telecommunication network.

Regarding claim 2, the combination of **Kim** and **Willars** disclose said network controller implements hand-off to said communication response to an actual hand-off request (see **Kim**, col. 3, lines 8 —26).

Regarding claims 3 and 10, the combination of **Kim** and **Willars** disclose said mobile station is in communication with a base transceiver station in the internal cellular communications network prior to handoff (see **Kim**, col. 1, lines 25—41).

Regarding claim 4, the combination of **Kim** and **Willars** disclose said predetermined parameters for use by said prediction algorithm includes timing advance information required from the base station to the mobile station (see **Kim**, col. 5, lines 5- 9).

Regarding claims 5, 11, 12 and 13, the combination of **Kim** and **Willars** disclose the internal cellular communications network comprises an internal network controller, which carries out the prediction and issues said hand-off advance request (see **Kim**, col. 3, lines 8 —22).

Regarding claim 6, the combination of **Kim** and **Willars** disclose said hand-off advance request is issued in packet format via a packet communication

path from the internal network controller to said network controller of said external network (see **Kim**, Col. 3, lines 8—22).

Regarding claim 7, the combination of **Kim** and **Willars** disclose a network controller for use in an internal cellular communications network, said internal network is a packet switched network (see **Kim**, col. 2, lines 18— 23) and comprises a plurality of cells and including at least one border cell, said at least one border cell being adjacent cells of an external mobile cellular communications network having an external network controller (see **Willars**, col. 4, line 57 to col.5, line 5). The internal network controller comprising means for detecting the movement of said mobile station (#10) into said border cell (see **Kim**, col. 3, lines 8 —22). Means for selectively issuing a hand-off advance request advising said network controller of said external network that a hand-off is likely to be- required (see **Kim**, col. 3, lines 13— 31) in accordance with a predetermined algorithm which uses a set of predetermined parameters associated with said mobile station (see **Kim**, col. 5, lines 5 — 9) and means for setting up a communication channel in the external communication network for use by said mobile station (#10) when an actual hand-off request is made (see **Kim**, col. 2, lines 31 —37). Said internal cellular network transmits and receives a plurality of signals using the same communication standard for radio frequency-communication as said external cellular network (see **Kim**, col. 5, lines 42 —53).

Regarding claim 8, the combination of **Kim** and **Willars** disclose a base transceiver station operate to set up an RF communication channel with said mobile station (see **Kim**, col. lines 25—41).

Regarding claims 9 and 14, the combination of **Kim** and **Willars** disclose said external network controller is in communication with said internal network controller by a packet communication path for transmission of said hand-off advance request (see **Kim**, col. 3, lines 8— 22).

### ***Response to Amendment***

#### **16. AMENDMENTS NOW MUST BE SUBMITTED IN REVISED FORMAT**

All amendments received by the Office on or after July 30, 2003 must be in compliance with the rules as required by the Revised Amendment Practice. This practice requires the submission of an amendment document that includes separate sections for amendments to the claims, drawings, specification and abstract, each beginning on a new sheet of paper. If an amendment is received as a preliminary amendment or as a *bona fide* reply under 37 CFR 1.111, that has compliant amendments to one or more separate section(s), but also includes one, or more, separate section(s) with non-compliant amendments, the Office will mail a Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment requiring correction to the non-compliant section(s) within a time period set by the Office. When making corrections, applicant should just resubmit the needed corrected section(s), and correspondingly, should not resubmit the entire amendment document. For example, if the amendment included compliant amendments to the specification and claims, and non-compliant amendments to the drawings, a notice requiring resubmission of compliant amendments to the drawings would be sent. In reply to the notice, applicant should only submit a compliant amendment to the drawings, and not the previously compliant amendments to the specification and claims. If any additional, or further, amendments to the claims are desired, the changes must be made relative to the previous compliant amendment to the claims. The Office will consider both the previous compliant amendment to the claims, and the supplemental compliant amendment to the claims, after the Office receives the compliant amendment to the drawings.

An amendment submitted on or after July 30, 2003 as part of a reply after the close of prosecution (e.g., as a reply under 37 CFR 1.116) that is not compliant with the Revised Amendment Practice will not act to toll the outstanding time period. See 37 CFR 1.135(c). A notice (e.g., an advisory action) may be mailed by the Office specifying which section(s) of the amendment was not in compliance with the Revised Amendment Practice, but no new time period will be given to provide a compliant section.

### **REVISED FORMAT OF AMENDMENTS**

#### **Begin on separate sheets:**

Each section of an Amendment (e.g., Claim Amendments, Specification Amendments, Remarks) should begin on a separate sheet. *For example*, in an amendment containing a.) introductory comments, b.) amendments to the claims, c.) amendments to the specification, and d.) remarks, each of these sections should begin on a separate sheet. This will facilitate the process of separately indexing and scanning of each part of an amendment document for placement in an electronic file wrapper.

#### **Two versions of amended part(s) no longer required:**

The current requirement in 37 CFR 1.121(b) and (c) to provide two versions (a clean version and a marked up version) of each replacement paragraph, section, substitute specification or claim will be waived where an amendment is submitted in the following format:

#### **A) Amendments to the claims:**

Each amendment document that includes a change to an existing claim, or submission of a new claim, **must include a complete listing** of all claims in the application. After each claim number, the status must be indicated in a parenthetical expression, and the text of each claim under examination (with markings to show current changes) must be presented. The listing will serve to replace all prior versions of the claims in the application.

(1) The current status of all of the claims in the application, including any previously canceled or withdrawn claims, must be given. Status is indicated in a parenthetical expression following the claim number by one of the following: (original), (currently amended), (previously amended), (canceled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously added), (reinstated – formerly claim #\_), (previously reinstated), (re-presented – formerly dependent claim #\_), or (previously re-presented). The text of all pending claims under examination must be submitted each time any claim is amended. Canceled and withdrawn claims should be indicated by only the claim number and status.

(2) All claims being currently amended must be presented with markings to indicate the changes that have been made relative to the immediate prior version. The changes in any amended claim should be shown by strikethrough (for deleted matter) or underlining (for added matter). An accompanying clean version is not required and should not be presented. Only claims of the status "currently amended" will include markings.

(3) The text of pending claims not being amended must be presented in clean version, i.e., without any markings. Any claim presented in clean version will constitute an assertion

that it has not been changed relative to the immediate prior version.

- (4) A claim may be canceled by merely providing an instruction to cancel. Listing a claim as canceled will constitute an instruction to cancel. Any claims added by amendment must be indicated as (new) and shall not be underlined.
- (5) All of the claims in each amendment paper must be presented in ascending numerical order. Consecutive canceled or withdrawn claims may be aggregated into one statement (e.g. Claims 1 – 5 (canceled)).

**Example of listing of claims:**

Claims 1-5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (withdrawn)

Claim 7 (previously amended): A bucket with a handle.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A bucket with a ~~green~~ blue handle.

Claim 9 (withdrawn)

Claim 10 (original): The bucket of claim 8 with a wooden handle.

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (new): A bucket with plastic sides and bottom.

Claim 13 (previously added): A bucket having a circumferential upper lip.

Claim 14 (re-presented – formerly claim 11): A black bucket with a wooden handle.

**B) Amendments to the specification:**

Amendments to the specification may be made by presenting a replacement paragraph, section or substitute specification marked up to show changes made relative to the immediate prior version. An accompanying clean version is not required and should not be presented.

**C) Amendments to drawing figures:**

Drawing changes may be made by presenting replacement figures which incorporate the proposed changes and which comply with § 1.84. An explanation of the changes made must be presented in the remarks section of the amendment. If the changes to the drawing figure(s) are not approved by the examiner, applicant will be informed in the next Office action. Any replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even though only one figure may be amended. The figure or figure number of the amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.”

Any questions regarding the submission of amendments pursuant to the revised practice set forth in this flyer should be directed to the following legal advisors in the Office of Patent Legal Administration (OPLA): Elizabeth Dougherty ([Elizabeth.Dougherty@uspto.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Dougherty@uspto.gov)), Gena Jones ([Eugenia.Jones@uspto.gov](mailto:Eugenia.Jones@uspto.gov)) or Joe Narcavage ([Joseph.Narcavage@uspto.gov](mailto:Joseph.Narcavage@uspto.gov)). For information on the waiver or legal aspects of the prototype, please contact Jay Lucas ([Jay.Lucas@uspto.gov](mailto:Jay.Lucas@uspto.gov)), Senior Legal Advisor (PCTLA) or Rob Clarke ([Robert.Clarke@uspto.gov](mailto:Robert.Clarke@uspto.gov)), Senior Legal Advisor (OPLA). Alternatively, further information may be obtained by calling OPLA at (703) 305-1616.

17. Patent Application Publications May Now Include Amendments

As a consequence of the use of Image File Wrappers (IFW), the United States Patent and Trademark Office (Office) has begun to publish patent applications with amendments that expedite the publication process. For example, the patent application publication may be based upon amendments to the specification that are reflected in a substitute specification, an amendment to the abstract, amendments to the claims that are reflected in a complete claim listing, and amendments to the drawings that are reflected in replacement drawing sheets, provided that such substitute specification or amendment is submitted in sufficient time to be entered into the application file wrapper before technical preparations for publication of the application have begun. Technical preparations for publication of an application generally begin between fourteen and nine weeks prior to the projected date of publication (the projected publication date is indicated on the filing receipt for the patent application). Accordingly, the provisions 37 CFR 1.215(a) are waived to the extent that they are inconsistent with this change in practice. 37 CFR 1.215(a) will be revised consistent with this change in practice, when the rule changes proposed in Changes To Support Implementation of the United States Patent and Trademark Office 21st Century Strategic Plan, 68 Fed. Reg. 53816 (Sept. 12, 2003), 1275 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office Notices 23 (Oct 7, 2003) are made final.

**Although the Office has begun to include amendments in patent application publications, applicants desiring to ensure that a patent application publication reflects an amendment should submit the application, as amended, through the Electronic Filing System (EFS). See 37 CFR 1.215(c). See also Helpful Hints Regarding Publication of Patent Applications, 1249 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office Notices 83 (August 21, 2001). In addition, if the application is not maintained in an IFW, and the amended application is not submitted through EFS, a petition under 37 CFR 1.182 will continue to be necessary for certain drawings to be included in the patent application publication. See Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, Section 507 (8th ed. 2001, rev. 1, Feb. 2003).**

General questions regarding publication of patent applications should be directed to the Customer Service Center, Office of Patent Publication, by telephone at (703) 305-8283. Questions regarding the Electronic Filing System should be directed to (703) 305-3028. Questions of a legal nature should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (703) 308-6906.

#### **18. Elimination of Post Office Box in Arlington, Virginia for Patent Related Correspondence**

Effective June 1, 2004, the Office will cease accepting patent-related correspondence addressed to the P.O. Box 2327 Arlington, VA 22202. Effective May 1, 2003, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.1, patent-related correspondence should have been addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. Accordingly, as of May 1, 2003, the provisions of 37 CFR 1.8 (Certificate of Mailing) and 1.10 (Express Mail certificate) that were waived by the Office were no longer waived for correspondence addressed to P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202.

In November of 2001, the Office established a Post Office Box in Arlington, Virginia (P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202) for use on an emergency basis, and indicated that the Office would continue to accept patent-related correspondence at this Arlington, Virginia Post Office Box and treat such correspondence as if it were addressed as set forth in 37 CFR 1.1 for purposes of 37 CFR 1.8 and 1.10 until further notice. On March 25, 2003, the Office provided notice that persons submitting correspondence to the Office should no longer use the Arlington, Virginia Post Office Box for any correspondence (including sequence listings in electronic format) after May 1, 2003. See Correspondence with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, 68 Fed. Reg. 14332 (March 25, 2003).

Correspondence in patent-related matters to organizations reporting to the Commissioner for Patents must be addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Appropriate mail stops should also be used. See the notice titled "*Special Mail Stops For Patent Mail*" that is published each week in the Official Gazette Notices and posted on the USPTO Internet web site.

**Questions regarding this notice may be e-mailed to PatentPractice@uspto.gov, or directed to the Inventors' Assistance Center (formerly the Patent Assistance Center (PAC)) by telephone at 800-786-9199 or 703-308-4357.**



**19. Establishment of Mail Stop Post Issue; Revision and Deletion of Certain Mail Stops**

Effective April 27, 2004, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has established a new mail stop, Mail Stop Post Issue, and several mail stops have been deleted, or changed. Correspondence that should be directed to Mail Stop Post Issue includes correspondence in applications that have issued as a patent, such as requests for changes of address (other than a fee address, which should be addressed to Mail Stop M Correspondence), powers of attorney, revocations of powers of attorney, withdrawal of attorney, and submissions under 37 CFR 1.501.

The mail stops that should no longer be used are: Mail Stop Application Number; Mail Stop CPA; Mail Stop Design; Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment; Mail Stop Patent Application; and Mail Stop Provisional Patent Application. Correspondence that would have been addressed to these mail stops no longer needs a specific mail stop. Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment has been changed to Mail Stop Amendment. Mail Stop PGPUB-ABD has been changed to Mail Stop Express Abandonment and all requests and petitions for an express abandonment under 37 CFR 1.138 should be directed to this mail stop.

Questions regarding this notice may be e-mailed to [PatentPractice@uspto.gov](mailto:PatentPractice@uspto.gov), or directed to the Inventors' Assistance Center (formerly the Patent Assistance Center (PAC)) by telephone at (800)786-9199, or (703)308-4357.

**20. Oversized Postcards Must Be Submitted With Sufficient Postage**

Recently, a number of return receipt postcards have been returned to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (Office) because the postcards contained insufficient postage for an oversized postcard. Oversized postcards require First-Class letter postage. Customers are reminded that they are solely responsible for placing the proper postage on self-addressed postcards that are submitted to the Office for the purpose of obtaining a receipt for correspondence being filed in the Office. Customers should be aware of the following guidance from the USPS regarding postage and acceptability for postcards:

{A} In order to be eligible for the First-Class Mail card rates (currently \$0.23 per card, domestic delivery), cards must be of uniform thickness and made of unfolded and uncreased paper or card stock of approximately the quality and weight of a Postal Service stamped card. Cards claimed at the First-Class postcard rate must be:

- (a) Rectangular;
- (b) No less than 3-1/2 inches high, 5 inches long, and 0.007 inch thick; and
- (c) No more than 4-1/4 inches high, 6 inches long, and 0.016 inch thick.

{B}Cards that measure more than 4-1/4 inches high, 6 inches long, or 0.016 inch thick are charged postage at the First-Class Mail letter rates.

Cards that measure less than 3-1/2 inches high, 5 inches long, and 0.007 inch thick are nonmailable.

Any return receipt postcard that does not contain sufficient postage or is not acceptable may not be delivered by the United States Postal Service (USPS) to the address provided on the postcard, and, if returned to the Office, may be discarded.

For information regarding the Office's postcard receipt practice in patent-related matters, see *Manual of Patent Examining Procedure* (MPEP) (8<sup>th</sup> Ed., Rev. 1, Feb. 2003), Section 503. Questions regarding sufficient postage for postcards should be directed to the United States Postal Service. Questions regarding this notice may be e-mailed to [PatentPractice@uspto.gov](mailto:PatentPractice@uspto.gov), or directed to the Inventors' Assistance Center by telephone at (800)786-9199, or (703)308-4357. 07/01/04

### **Conclusion**

#### **21. All Electronic Copies of Patent Application Records Will Now Be Provided as Certified Copies in Electronic Form**

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is changing to an electronic format for the electronic certified copies it supplies of 1) U.S. patent applications as filed, and 2) U.S. patent-related file wrappers and contents. Copies of U.S. patent application documents made from the USPTO's Image File Wrapper (IFW) electronic system will be provided entirely in electronic form and will always be provided as certified copies. In addition, certified copies of patent application documents will no longer be bound, regardless of whether produced from IFW or a paper file.

For the last two years certified copies of large patent application files produced from the USPTO's electronic systems have been provided only on compact disc, with an attached paper certification statement. Currently, certified copies of patent applications as filed of 400 or more pages and all certified File Wrapper copies produced from IFW are provided on compact disc (CD), both with attached paper certification statements. The \$200 fee for a file wrapper and contents was effectively waived and replaced by a \$55 fee when the application contents are provided on CD. See Copies of File Contents Available on Compact Disc Partial Waiver of 37 CFR 1.19(b), 1278 Off. Gaz. Patent Office 261 (Jan. 27, 2004). The fee for an application as filed remains \$20, as set forth in 37 CFR 1.19(b)(1), even when the copy is provided on compact disc.

**Effective July 30, 2004, all copies of patent documents purchased under 37 CFR 1.19 and produced from IFW will be provided only as electronic files, with an imaged certification statement included as part of a digitally signed PDF (portable document format) file containing TIFF (tag image file format) images of the document pages. These electronic files may be downloaded from the USPTO website or provided by the USPTO on compact disc. The electronic files are digitally signed by the USPTO for authenticity and integrity, and cannot be**

**undetectably modified. As mentioned above, all copies purchased pursuant to 37 CFR 1.19 and produced from IFW will be produced only as certified copies. Uncertified copies may be downloaded under the USPTO's Public PAIR system. Before submitting electronic certified copies of the application as filed supplied on CD or in another electronic form to intellectual property offices under Article 4 of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property applicants should inquire whether that office accepts priority documents in electronic form. Although the USPTO provides a certified copy in electronic form, applicants may print the certified copies to paper if required by the intellectual property office to which it is submitted.**

The USPTO is actively engaging in discussions with other intellectual property offices for the mutual acceptance of electronic priority documents. Should another intellectual property office not accept a paper or electronic certified copy of a patent application as filed as described in the above paragraph, upon presentation of a notice of non-acceptance by the other office, the USPTO will provide a substitute paper copy with a letter signed by an official of the USPTO addressed to the foreign office indicating that the certified copy of the application as filed is to be accepted under Article 4 of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property. Since the USPTO will no longer bind or rivet paper certified copies of patent applications as filed or file wrappers and contents, copies produced by the Office will be identical to copies printed by an applicant from the electronic certified copy. Questions regarding this change in practice should be directed to the Office of Public Records at (703) 308-9743.

22. If applicants wish to request for an interview, an *"Applicant Initiated Interview Request"* form (PTOL-413A) should be submitted to the examiner prior to the interview in order to permit the examiner to prepare in advance for the interview and to focus on the issues to be discussed. This form should identify the participants of the interview, the proposed date of the interview, whether the interview will be personal, telephonic, or video conference, and should include a brief description of the issues to be discussed. A copy of the completed *"Applicant Initiated Interview Request"* form should be attached to the Interview Summary form, PTOL-413 at the completion of the interview and a copy should be given to applicant or applicant's representative.

23. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **WILLIAM D CUMMING** whose telephone number is **703-305-4394**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Tuesday 10:30am to 8:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **WILLIAM TROST** can be reached on 703-308-5318. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

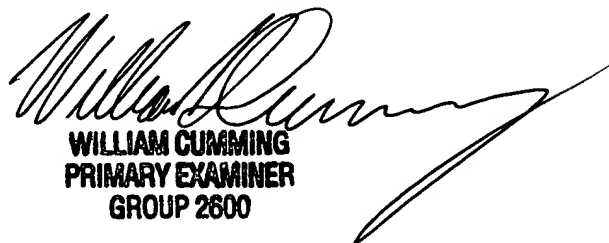
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